Mountain areas are among the territories most affected by natural hazards and these risks are expected to increase due to the effects of climate change (more severe droughts, higher average temperatures, and changes in the rainfall patterns). These risks do not respect administrative limits (for example, fires that cross borders in continuous forest areas) and need transnational coordination.

The MONTCLIMA project will develop the first transnational strategic framework for prevention and management of natural hazards in mountain areas for the SUDOE territory.

Project partners
1. Bodega Agrícola Labastida SL, Spain
2. Arabako Errioxako Upeltegiaren Elkartea, ABRIA, Spain
3. Instituto Geológico y Minero de España, Spain
4. Instituto Universitario de Gestión Forestal Sostenible de la Universidad de Valladolid, Spain
5. Instituto de la Propiedad Forestal de la Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain
6. Oficina Española del Cambio Climático, Spain
7. Junta de Andalucía, Spain
8. Junta de Castilla y León, Spain
9. Service Interdépartemental pour l’Aménagement du Massif central, SIDAM, France
10. Convention Alpina, France
11. Commissariat général à l’égalité des territoires - Commissariat à l’aménagement des Pyrénées, France
12. Agrocnopte Europeen de Coopération Territorial, ZASNET, Portugal
13. Comunidade Intermunicipal das Terras de Trás-os-Montes, CIM-TM, Portugal
14. Institut d’estudis andorrans, IEA, Principality of Andorra
15. Oficina Española del Cambio Climático, Spain

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Strategic objective 1: Capitalising on successful cases of forms of governance and practical initiatives for prevention and management of natural hazards.

Strategic objective 2: Design of a methodology for the development of a transnational strategic framework for risk prevention and management in SUDOE mountain areas.

Strategic objective 3: Test the transnational strategic framework in pilot territories for the above-mentioned hazards.

Strategic objective 4: Communication and dissemination of results and tools.

**Objectives**

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of the SUDOE mountain territories through a transnational strategic framework based on capitalising on previous successful projects for the prevention and management of natural climate risks (fires, droughts, flooding and erosion). The project approach is based on the following pillars:

**Project actions**

**Action 1** Capitalising on the information and creation of a shared body of technical and regulatory references and benchmark experiences

The objective of GT1 is to capitalise on good practices relating to natural hazards in mountain areas which have been developed, tested and validated in previous projects, through three complementary tasks: conducting a study on the current status of practices with a transnational approach in the SUDOE area (1.1); the analysis of the past, present and future (potential) vulnerability of these mountain territories through a web application that assesses the information on past and future vulnerability to the four risks under study and improves management (1.2) and the technical and legal analysis of risk management in the study area (1.3).

**Action 2** Design of the Transnational Strategic Framework for the management of natural hazards

The objective of this GT is to jointly define a framework document that integrates operational and strategic recommendations for each core focus, based on the results obtained in GT1 and applicable to the mountain areas of the SUDOE territory. It will be a core document implemented through the GT3 Action Plans for prevention and management of natural hazards (testing and development). The document will take into account the specificities of the SUDOE mountain territories based on the experiences and knowledge of the project partners and associates. The Transnational Strategic Framework (A2.1) will be enriched with the knowledge acquired through the GT3 pilot cases, so that it can be tested on the ground with practical cases and at different stages of implementation.

**Action 3** Design and implementation (testing and development) of common Action Plans for prevention and management of natural hazards

Action plans will be developed based on the Strategic Framework defined in A2.1, which will be tested in several territories (A3.1). They will define the guidelines to improve resilience to each hazard, with special emphasis on governance and monitoring of the process. The plans will be validated and/or improved through pilot trials (A3.2).

**Action 4** Appropriation and transferability

This GT aims for the transfer of the results to the key actors in the design and implementation of the policies of prevention and management of natural hazards in the SUDOE territories and their reproducibility. For this purpose, a series of specific measures are proposed, which will be conveyed mainly through thematic seminars and field visits to the pilot cases.